



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

THOUSAND ISLANDS PLAYHOUSE APPOINTS MANAGING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

GANANOQUE, ON (September 29, 2017) – The Board of Directors of the **Thousand Islands Playhouse** (TIP) has announced that it has named **Brett Christopher** as its Managing Artistic Director.

Christopher is well known to TIP's audiences and stakeholders having performed on both stages, and a range of administrative responsibilities such as Marketing Director, Associate Artist, and, most recently, as General Manager.

"In his most recent role, he has brought significant stability to the company, built strong relationships with staff, strengthened relationships with key donors, and raised the profile of TIP in the community," said board chair **Lynda Garrah**. "That, combined with his extensive artistic experience on Canadian stages, proved to us that he was ideal person to lead the organization into the future."

After working in Toronto for a decade, Christopher returned home to Kingston where he became a driving force in the region's arts community as Artistic Producer of Theatre Kingston. Along with producing a 3-show season annually, Christopher sat on multiple boards, worked with a variety of local cultural groups, and founded both The Kick & Push Festival, and the Storefront Fringe Festival.

"I am honoured and humbled to take on the leadership of this incredible company," said Christopher. "Over the past twenty years, I have been audience, artist, and administrator at the Playhouse and I plan to use all of that shared history to develop a vibrant and vital plan for the company's bright future. Having lived and worked in the region for the last decade, I understand the many challenges that are ahead. However, I am eager to jump in and establish the company as a leading voice for culture in the area."

Christopher completed his undergraduate studies at Queen's University and has been an active member of the Canadian theatre community since graduating from George Brown College's theatre program in 2001. He has worked with a variety of theatre companies across Canada as an actor, director, and producer including the Stratford Festival, Arts Club, Canadian Stage, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Western Canada Theatre, Theatre by the Bay, Segal Theatre, Magnus Theatre, Sunshine Festival, Port Hope Festival, Actors Repertory Company, Convergence Theatre, and others.

He takes over artistic leadership from **Ashlie Corcoran**, who will be stepping down from her position in order to take on the role of Artistic Director at the highly touted Arts Club Theatre Company in Vancouver, BC. TIP is grateful for Ashlie's contributions over the last five years, a time of artistic and organizational growth for the company. Her tenure was remarkable for its eclectic programming, new play development, and co-productions with theatres companies across Canada that raised TIP's national presence.

Media Contact: Emily McMahon, Marketing Manager - emily@1000islandsplayhouse.com / 613-382-7086 ext. 23

Thousand Islands Foundation For The Performing Arts
Artistic Director: Ashlie Corcoran | General Manager: Brett Christopher
185 South Street | Gananoque, ON | K7G 1A1
Administration: 613-382-7086 | Box Office: 613-382-7020
1000islandsplayhouse.com